Attorney's Docket No.: 17315-002001

## E UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Art Unit : 3738

Serial No.: 10/635,776

Examiner: Thomas C. Barrett

Filed

: August 5, 2003

Conf. No.: 1704

Title

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CARDIAC VALVE REPAIR

## Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the office action mailed June 16, 2006, the examiner asserted that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species. The examiner requested that applicants "select one embodiment of catheter, e.g., where in the expansion element is a balloon, one embodiment of a fastener, and one embodiment of a supporting structure in combination, e.g., balloon expandable catheter with a staple and a structure to shorten the annulus."

In response to the examiner's request, applicants select the embodiment that corresponds to claim 43. Applicant asserts that at least claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14-18, 39, 41-42, 44, 45, and 49 are readable on the embodiment of claim 43.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 16,2006

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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

Cecilia Tobin

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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